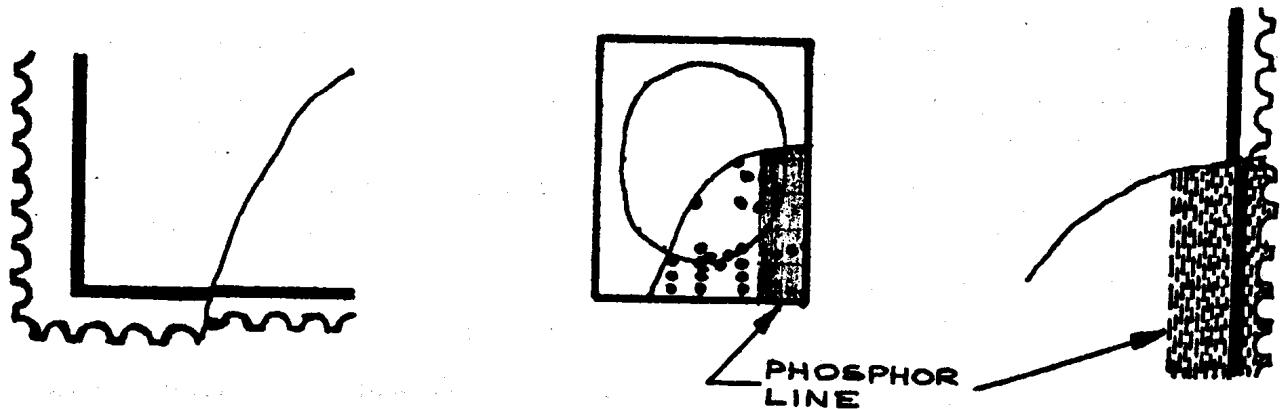


The envelope illustrated was purchased over 40 years ago from a local society exchange packet. The reason for the purchase was the violet 'RETURN TO SENDER' cachet (*the cachet is actually stronger than shown*). Later scrutiny of the 'stamp' however revealed it was a fraud having been made up of pieces of two stamps.

Several similar cached items had been bought at the same time and one of them had triggered the closer look at all the cached covers. The first to be examined appeared to show the Queen with two mouths!! Examination with a magnifying glass soon revealed the reason for the two mouths. The 3d 'stamp' had been made from uncancelled halves of two different stamps but the parts had not been perfectly matched.

The 4d stamp on this illustrated cover was an even worse fake. The fraudster had cut a circular part of one stamp, thus removing the postmark, and then cut an uncancelled piece to fit. The larger part was from a non-phosphor 4d stamp whereas the added piece was taken from a phosphor lined PERFINNED stamp!!



It is believed the fraudster's daughter had the responsibility of taking her employer's daily post with the appropriate amount of petty cash at the end of the day. She was taking the mail home where her father was applied his fakes and pocketed the petty cash. The fraud would never have come to light had some of the envelopes not been returned to the firm. The fraudster obviously had asked his daughter to bring home any envelopes with extra markings. These he put into the philatelic society exchange packet without realising some of them bore his fakes.

oo00O00oo